

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—

The Army wonders why all its soldiers don't shoot their weapons in battle.

Although in Korea American forces have a potential "fire power" far beyond that of any previous conflict, the mystery of the non-shooting soldier still persists—as it has in two wars.

Some experts, among them Col. S. L. A. Marshall, retired Army officer and military writer, claim that in a fire-fight no more than one out of four men uses the rifle, automatic weapon or grenades he may be carrying.

The Army, in answer to a reporter's questions today, said it doesn't know the exact percentage or the exact reasons, but that:

"It is known that a significant number of infantrymen when actually engaged in combat fail to employ their individual weapons when observed and vulnerable targets (that is, something you could hit) are within effective range. The precise number . . . and the reason for the behavior phenomena, remain alike unknown. . . ."